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TO: [illegible]IENTIFIC CHIEF, ALSOS MISSION

SUBJECT: FINAL REPORT OF JAMES K. SENIOR

(1) IN ACCORDANCE WITH INVITATIONAL TRAVEL ORDERS (AG 095 SENIOR, JAMES K. (11 JULY 1945) OB-S-E), I REPORTED ON JULY 16, 1945 TO THE CHIEF, ALSOS MISSION, PARIS, FRANCE.

(2) I RECEIVED FROM THE SCIENTIFIC CHIEF OF THE ALSOS MISSION INSTRUCTIONS TO ACQUAINT MYSELF WITH THE CAPTURED GERMAN DOCUMENTS ON FILE IN THE OFFICES OF THE MISSION AND WITH THE VARIOUS REPORTS WHICH ALSOS AND OTHER INVESTIGATING AGENCIES HAD PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED. WHILE I WAS THUS ENGAGED, THE SCIENTIFIC CHIEF OF THE ALSOS MISSION LEFT PARIS WITHOUT GIVING ME ANY FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS. HE WAS ABSENT FOR OVER A MONTH. IT WAS THEREFORE NECESSARY FOR ME TO CREATE A JOB FOR MYSELF.

AFTER A CAREFUL STUDY OF THE CAPTURED GERMAN DOCUMENTS AT MY DISPOSAL, I BECAME CONVINCED THAT THE FILES OF THE REICHSFORSCHUNGSRAT CONSTITUTE A DOCUMENT OF CONSIDERABLE CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL VALUE. THEY CONTAIN LITTLE OF HIGH SCIENTIFIC INTEREST, AND PRACTICALLY NOTHING OF GREAT MILITARY IMPORTANCE; BUT THE LIGHT WHICH THEY THROW ON THE RELATIONS OF THE GERMAN SCIENTISTS (PARTICULARLY THE MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY FACULTIES) TO THE NAZI GOVERNMENT IS IMPORTANT. IT THEREFORE APPEARED TO ME THAT THE BEST USE I COULD MAKE OF MY TIME (AT LEAST IN THE ABSENCE OF FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS) WAS TO FORGET FOR THE MOMENT MY SCIENTIFIC EXPERIENCE AND TO DEVOTE MY ATTENTION TO PUTTING THE REICHSFORSCHUNGSRAT (RFR) PAPERS INTO SUCH CONDITION THAT THEY COULD LATER BE ADEQUATELY DIGESTED AND ANALYZED BY PERSONS WITH THE PROPER PROFESSIONAL TRAINING. THESE PAPERS HAD BEEN BADLY MANGLED AND DISORDERED, PARTLY (I SHOULD JUDGE) BEFORE THEY WERE CAPTURED AND PARTLY BY INEPT HANDLING AFTER CAPTURE. IT WAS THEREFORE A LONG AND TEDIOUS TASK TO GET THEM BACK INTO PROPER SHAPE.

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I PREPARED A PLAN FOR DOING THIS WORK, AND AT A LATER PERIOD INCLUDED IN MY GENERAL SCHEME THAT PORTION OF THE SO-CALLED "OSENBERG" FILES WHICH WERE PRESENT IN THE ALSOS OFFICE. THIS WORK WAS UNDER WAY, AND WOULD PROBABLY HAVE BEEN FINISHED BY ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF NOVEMBER, WHEN I WAS SUDDENLY INFORMED (ABOUT SEPTEMBER 5, 1945) THAT I WOULD HAVE TO BRING MY WORK TO COMPLETION BY SEPTEMBER 25, 1945. IT WAS THEREFORE NECESSARY FOR ME TO CURTAIL VERY MUCH MY PLAN, AND TO ADOPT A MORE SUMMARY PROCEDURE. I WAS ABLE TO DO LITTLE MORE THAN TO PREPARE A PARTIAL AND INCOMPLETE INDEX OF THE MATERIAL. NEVERTHELESS, I BELIEVE THAT I DID ACCOMPLISH ENOUGH TO ENABLE THE WORK TO BE COMPLETED AFTER THE PAPERS HAVE REACHED THE UNITED STATES.

(3) I CEASED MY WORK IN PARIS ON SEPTEMBER 25, 1945 AND (IN ACCORDANCE WITH ORDERS, AG 900.4 (19 SEPTEMBER 1945) I-435) PROCEEDED TO LONDON, ENGLAND ON TEMPORARY DUTY. IN ENGLAND, I TOOK A SEVEN DAYS LEAVE. I RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES ON OCTOBER 16, 1945, TOOK ANOTHER THREE DAYS LEAVE, AND REPORTED IN WASHINGTON ON OCTOBER 23, 1945.

(4) MY RECOMMENDATIONS WITH REGARD TO THE MATERIAL WHICH CAME TO MY ATTENTION AT THE ALSOS MISSION IN PARIS ARE AS FOLLOWS. THE FILES OF THE REICHSFORSCHUNGSRAT AND THE OSENBERG FILES ARE OF SUFFICIENT VALUE TO WARRANT INTENSIVE TREATMENT. THEY SHOULD BE PUT INTO GOOD ORDER AND REVIEWED AS SINGLE ITEMS. IN ADDITION, CERTAIN INDIVIDUAL PAPERS SHOULD BE REVIEWED BY EXPERTS IN VARIOUS FIELDS. TO ACCOMPLISH THIS WORK PROPERLY, THE SERVICES OF A MAN EXPERIENCED IN HISTORICAL RESEARCH APPEAR TO ME ESSENTIAL. THE WHOLE LOT OF PAPERS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO SOME ONE WHO HAS BEEN TRAINED IN THE PROCEDURES USED BY HISTORIANS IN DISENTANGLING AND INTERPRETING DISORDERED ARCHIVES. IN ADDITION, THE SERVICES OF A SCIENTIST WITH BROAD INTERESTS ARE

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INDISPENSIBLE. SUFFICIENT STENOGRAPHIC ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE FURNISHED TO ENABLE THE HISTORIAN AND THE SCIENTIST TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF THEIR TIME. ADEQUATE OFFICE SPACE AND EQUIPMENT (FILING SYSTEMS, ETC.) ARE ASSUMED.

MY GUESS (AND IT IS NOTHING MORE THAN A GUESS) IS THAT THE ENTIRE WORK COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN A YEAR AT A COST OF BETWEEN $10,000 AND $15,000. IN MY OPINION, THE MATERIAL AMPLY WARRANTS SUCH AN EXPENDITURE.

THE WORK OUTLINED ABOVE CAN BE CARRIED TO COMPLETION WITHOUT FURTHER ASSISTANCE ON MY PART. IT WOULD HOWEVER GREATLY EXPEDITE THE PROGRAM IF I WERE PRESENT, PARTICULARLY AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PROJECT. I SHALL AT any TIME BE GLAD TO VOLUNTEER MY SERVICES IN CARRYING OUT THE SUGGESTED PROGRAM, PROVIDED THAT MY EXPENSES ARE COVERED. IT WOULD, I BELIEVE BE HIGHLY REGRETTABLE IF THE RFR AND OSENBERG FILES WERE TO VANISH INTO AN ARCHIVE WHERE THEY WOULD BE PRACTICALLY INACCESSIBLE.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

James K. Senior.

JAMES K. SENIOR

OCTOBER 23, 1945
MAM

CC: DR. ALAN T. WATERMAN, CHIEF, OFFICE OF FIELD SERVICE

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